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CC191 Questions and Answers about Recreational Development in Watershed Projects Nebraska

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**RECREATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT
in WATERSHED
PROJECTS**

Nebraska

**BY HAROLD H. GILMAN
EXTENSION CONSERVATIONIST**

EXTENSION SERVICE
UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
AND U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
COOPERATING
E. F. FROLIK, DEAN E. W. JANIKE, DIRECTOR

An amendment to Public Law 566 in Section 103 of Public Law 87-703, approved September 27, 1962, has made possible recreational development in watershed projects.

1. What does this new authority involve?

It authorizes Federal financial assistance for creation or improvement for all forms of water-based recreation facilities on or near reservoirs, lakes, natural streams or along shorelines.

2. Are there requirements for Federal cost sharing?

Yes.

- a) The facilities must be available to the public and not limited to certain classes or organized groups.
- b) Recreational developments are limited to:
 - 1) One development for less than 75,000 acres in the watershed.
 - 2) Two developments for watersheds containing 75,000 to 150,000 acres.
 - 3) Three developments for watersheds containing more than 150,000 acres.

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- c) Each development must meet a need and must not duplicate other similar developments in the area.

3. Where can a recreational development be located?

A recreational development can be:

- a) A single reservoir.
- b) A single lake.
- c) A single reach of shoreline,
- d) A well defined reach of a single perennial stream.

(Note) It cannot be the entire watershed system.

4. Can projects be developed solely for recreation with Federal cost sharing?

No. A recreational project must be an integral part of the watershed.

5. Who selects recreational sites?

The site will be mutually agreed upon by the local watershed organization and the Soil Conservation Service. If it is within, near or adjacent to a National Forest, the Forest Service will be invited to participate in formation of the proposals.

6. Are flood control structures already built or under contract eligible for Federal cost sharing?

No. However, planned structures in projects authorized for construction are eligible for Federal cost sharing assistance.

7. Are there other requirement for Federal cost sharing?

Yes. There will be no Federal cost sharing for water resource improvements, minimum basic facilities, or land, easements, and right-of-way if they have been constructed or acquired by the local organization before execution of the appropriate project agreements.

8. What is eligible for Federal cost sharing and at what rate?

- a) Land easements and rights-of-way when the capacity or surface area of the storage pool or permanent sediment pool is increased at least 50 percent above what it would be without recreation. The Federal cost share rate will not exceed 50 percent of the cost.
- b) Construction costs allocated to the water resource development, 50 percent.
- c) Engineering and other services allocated to the water resource development, full cost.
- d) Land rights required for public access and public use including land for roads, parking lots, sanitary facilities, picnicking and beach areas, up to 50 percent.

- e) Other phases of the program such as engineering and installation services for minimum basic facilities listed under Question 14, removals, relocation or modifications of existing improvements, up to 50 percent.

9. In multiple purpose reservoirs that include recreation how much land can be acquired with Federal cost sharing?

The entire area up to the maximum flow line of the reservoir will be eligible for cost sharing.

10. How can the local organization qualify a project for recreation?

The local organization must acquire fee simple title or perpetual easements for:

- a) The dam site, spillway area and all land within the permanent storage pool.
- b) Lands above the permanent storage pool up to an elevation that would allow rights-of-way of sufficient width for at least a footpath above the maximum flow line of the reservoir connecting all public use areas on each side of the reservoir.

11. To what must the local organization agree?

They must agree:

- a) To make the lake available to the general public for purposes as outlined or planned.

- b) That the land area outside of the maximum flow line to be used for minimum basic facilities on which Federal cost shares are paid will not exceed the land area within the permanent storage pool.
- c) That at least one access road from an improved public highway will be provided.
- d) That the access road will lead to all principal public use areas adjacent to the reservoir.
- e) That all public use areas will be connected by a public footpath above the maximum flow line.
- f) That all land on which Federal cost sharing has been provided will not be sold or disposed of except to the sponsoring local organization.

12. Can land in which cost sharing has been received be leased?

Yes, if it is used for lunch stands, boat rental docks, etc.

13. Can cost sharing be obtained for areas other than for multiple purpose flood control and recreational structures?

Federal cost sharing can be obtained for lands, easements or rights-of-way along perennial streams or adjacent to natural lakes or shorelines when:

- a) Recreation will be based on the use of these streams or other bodies .
- b) Land rights are required to make public recreation feasible .
- c) The stream or other water body contains an adequate quantity and quality of water to support the proposed recreation .

14. What are the minimum basic facilities eligible for Federal cost sharing in a watershed recreation project?

- a) Roads and trails providing access from public highways and different parts of the recreational development.
- b) Parking lots .
- c) Public water supply .
- d) Sanitary facilities including toilets and garbage disposal.
- e) Power facilities .
- f) Beach development .
- g) Plantings and other shore line or area development .
- h) Picnic tables and fireplaces .
- i) Other similar or related facilities needed for public health and safety .

15. Are there any facilities ineligible for Federal cost sharing in a watershed recreational project?

Facilities such as lunch stands, cabins, motels, community buildings, dance pavillions, boat houses and similar or related facilities are not eligible for Federal cost sharing.

16. Can local organizations charge an admission fee for use of the recreational facilities?

Fees may be charged if they do not produce revenue in excess of the local organization's requirements to amortize their initial investment and provide adequate operation and maintenance.

17. When should the schedule of fees or use of developed?

The schedules of admission and use fees, together with other requirements for operation and maintenance of the recreational facilities, must be mutually agreed to by the local organization and the Soil Conservation Service and set forth in the operation and maintenance agreement.